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TO USINT CAIRO

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW, LONDON, NEW DELHI,
AND ISALAMABAD FROM TEHRAN MAR 24 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

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DEPARTMENT PASS BAGHDAD AND USINT CAIRO

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, IR, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ZAYYAT CONCLUDES BUSY FOUR-DAY VISIT TO IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 1784

SUMMARY: DURING FOUR- DAY OFFICIAL VISIT MARCH 19-23 EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ZAYYAT MET WITH SAHA AND OTHER IRANIAN OFFICIALS. ZAYYAT STRESSED PURPOSE HIS VISIT TO SYMBOLIZE CAIRO'S DESIRE EXPAND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH AND THANK IRAN FOR ITS SUPPORT. IN INTERVIEW GRANTED KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL ZAYYAT CHARGED ALL AVENUES TO A JUST MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION BEING BLOCKED BY ISRAEL.

END SUMMARY.

1. EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HASSAN AL- ZAYYAT DEPARTED TEHRAN

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FOR DACCA MARCH 23 FOLLOWING A FOUR- DAY VISIT TO IRAN. ZAYYAT STRESSED HIS VISIT SYMBOLIZED CAIRO'S DESIRE FOR EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH IRAN. HE INFORMED THE PRESS THAT HE WAS IN TEHRAN ON BEHALF OF EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE TO THANK THE SHAH AND IRANIAN PEOPLE FOR SUPPORT THEY HAD GIVEN ARAB CAUSE. HE WAS VISITING ASIAN CAPITXLS TO EXPLAIN THE " FACT OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION AND THE SUFFERINGS OF OUR PEOPLE."

2. DURING HIS THREE- HOUR MEETING MARCH 19 WITH SHAH, NEWS MADIA REPORTED ZAYYAT DELIVERED MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM PRESIDENT SADAT AND DISCUSSED THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS IN CONTEXT OF " UPCOMING U. S. PEACE INITIATIVE." ZAYYAT HELD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI AND MET WITH PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA. AN IRANIAN- EGYPTIAN CULTURAL EX- CHANGE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED ON MARCH 21.

3. DURING KHALATBARI' S DINNER HONORING ZAYYAT, THE LATTER PRAISED KRAN' S SUPPORT FOR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE ARABS AND OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI EXPANSION; COMPLIMENTED IRAN ON ITS ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND ASSUMPTION OF CONTROL OF OIL INDUSTRY; AND PRAISED SIGNING OF HELMAND WATRS AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN. KHALATBARI REITERATED IRAN' S SUPPORT OF A MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION OB BASIS OF THE 1967 UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION; HOPED THAT EGYPT UNDER PRESIDENT SADAT WOULD OVERCOME ITS PRESENT DIFFICULTIES AND, RECALLING EARLIER REMARK BY FORMER EGYPTIAN FONMIN RIAD, SAID TWO SIDES HAD TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME IN THEIR RELATIONS.

4. IN LONG INTERVIEW WITH CORRESPONDENT OF SEMI- OFFICIAL KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, ZAYYAT MADE POINTS THAT: (A) THE U. S. COULD TELL ISRAEL IT WILL NOT ENDORSE AND PROTECT ITS CONQUESTS; (B) EGYPT WOULD ACCEPT OPENING OF SUEZ CANAL IN FRAMEWORK OF SOMETHING LIKE THE ROGERS PLAN, PROVIDED THERE NO MISUNDERSTANDING ON FINAL GOAL, I. E., ISRAELI UNDERTAKING TO RETURN ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES; (C) ALL DOORS TO JUST SOLUTION ARE BEING LOCKED BY ISRAEL AND KEYS THROWN AWAY; (D) DESIRE FOR PEACE NOT LIMITED TO SOVIET PREMIER KOSYGIN (THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION WHETHER SOVIETS WERE THINKING OF A NEW PEACE INITIATIVE) EGYPT DID NOT BELIEVE BIG POWERS ALONE COULD CREATE PEACE IN REGION ALTHOUGH THEY COULD MAKE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION; (E) EGYPT EXPECTED AMERICAN NOT TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE BY UNDERWRITING ISRAELI EXPANSIONISM-- EGYPT HOPED THAT THOSE WHO SYM- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PATHIZED WITH HER WOULD HELP TO DISLODGE THE AGGRESSOR, BUT

BASICALLY EGYPT WOULD DEPEND ON ITS OWN MEANS.

5. COMMENT: AS AN EXERCISE IN PUBLIC RELATIONS VISITMOF
THE POPULAR EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO IRAN WAS A SUCCESS
ALTHOUGH IT FAILED TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM IMPACT DUE TO THE THREE- DAY
SUSPENSION OF NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING COINCIDING WITH NOW RUZ
(IRANIAN NEW YEAR) AND THE IRAQI ATTACK ON A KUWAITI POLICE
POST.
HELMS

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